

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

/088 R

DRAFTED BY STR:MPOMERANZ/USDOC:RBENSON:JH

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:JSSPIRO

TREAS:RSTANDARD

LABOR:JWANAMAKER (SUBS)

EA/ROC:HENGLEBRECHT

EB/OT/STA:MGOLDMAN

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----- 104509

P 201918Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TW

SUBJECT: SECTION 301 PETITION FILED BY CHARLES REHFELDT,
LAI FU TRADING CO., LTD.

REF: TAIPEI 5836

1. CONCERNING PARA 1 OF REFTTEL 5836 FROM MATERIAL AVAILABLE
TO US IT APPEARS THAT CUSTOMS DIRECTOR WANG'S LETTER IS
IN ERROR IN CLAIMING THAT CUSTOM'S BREAKOUT OF COLOR TV
SETS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ESTABLISHMENT OF A 45 PERCENT
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RATE. THE NOVEMBER 1971 EDITION OF ROC "CODE OF STANDARD

CLASSIFICATION OF IMPORT AND EXPORT COMMODITIES, CUSTOMS IMPORT TARIFF AND TARIFF RATES", AT PAGE 1-355, SHOWS CCC CODE 7308-20 LISTED FOR COLOR TELEVISION RECEIVERS AS BEING A CONTROLLED ITEM (C) WITH TARIFF NUMBER 8515 (1) AND A DUTY OF 33 PERCENT. THE JANUARY 1973 EDITION, AS REVISED IN JANUARY 1974, AT PAGE 400, SHOWS A COMMODITY CODE 7308-20 FOR COLOR TELEVISION SETS, TARIFF NUMBER 8515 (1), WITH THE DUTY STILL AT 33 PERCENT. IF YOU CONFIRM OUR VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, PLEASE BRING THIS DISCREPANCY TO THE ATTENTION OF DIRECTOR WANG.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MAY 1976 "MONTHLY

STATISTICS OF TRADE, ROC", VOLUME I, SHOWS THAT FOR JANUARY-MAY, 1976, A TOTAL OF 6,092 COLOR TV SETS VALUED AT NT \$29,268,000 (U.S. \$770,210.53) WERE IMPORTED. WE ALSO NOTE THAT U.S. EXPORTS TO TAIWAN FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1976 WERE 1,846 SETS VALUED AT \$657,374 (SCHEDULE B NO. 7241005). THESE DATA WOULD SEEM TO CONFLICT WITH DATA PROVIDED BY EMBASSY IN REFTEL PARA 4.

3. IF ROC DATA IN PRECEDING PARA IS ACCURATE, HOW DO WE EXPLAIN EXTREMELY LOW UNIT VALUE OF U.S. \$126.43? COULD THIS RESULT FROM ROC VALUATION OF USED OR NEW SETS BROUGHT IN BY RETURNING TRAVELERS FROM JAPAN?

4. TO ASSIST OUR ANALYSIS OF SUBJECT 301 DATA WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY WOULD CONSULT WITH GROC AND TRADE REPS AS APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO RESPOND ASAP TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING EACH OF THESE ROC TARIFF NUMBERS:

5801 (4)	8506 (2)
5802 (3)	8506 (3)
8412 (1)	8507
8415 (1)A	8512 (1)
8415 (3)A	8512 (4)
8440 (2)A	8515 (1)A

(A) QUANTITY AND VALUE OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOMESTIC SALES IN 1973, 1974 AND 1975;

(B) WHETHER IMPORTED AND EXPORTED PRODUCTS APPEARING UNDER SAME TARIFF NUMBER ARE COMPARABLE ARTICLES AND THEREFORE PRESUMABLY DIRECTLY COMPETITIVE OR WHETHER ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT PRODUCTS ARE INVOLVED;

(C) WHETHER IMPORTS ARE SIMILAR TO OR SUBSTANTIALY
DIFFERENT FROM PRODUCTS PRODUCED FOR DOMESTIC MARKET;

(D) LAI FU'S SALES PERFORMANCE 1973-75, IN TERMS OF
QUANTITY AND VALUE BY PRODUCT, COMPARED TO THAT OF OTHER
IMPORTERS; FOR COLOR TV'S, SHOW MONTHLY BREAKDOWN OF
IMPORTS AND SALES BY BRAND AND SCREEN SIZE AS WELL.

(E) ANY SPECIAL FACTORS EXPLAINING LARGE YEAR-TO-YEAR
CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES SHOWN IN ROC ANNUAL TRADE
STATISTICS;

(F) ANY CCC NUMBERS WHICH CORRESPOND DIRECTLY TO ANY OF
THE TARIFF NUMBERS ABOVE; AND

(G) EXTENT TO WHICH IMPORT STATISTICS ON CONSUMER
DURABLES MAY REFLECT IMPORTS BY RETURNING RESIDENTS, OR
SALES TO ROC RESIDENTS BY DEPARTING U.S. FORCES PERSONNEL.

(H) REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENT ON SHORT AS WELL AS LONGER
TERM DOMESTIC MARKET OUTLOOK FOR IMPORTED COLOR T.V.
SETS AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS IN PARA 4 ABOVE HANDLED BY
LAI FU. PLEASE COMMENT ALSO ON RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF
TARIFF LEVELS, ECONOMIC RECESSION, PRICE ELASTICITIES OF
LAI FU AND OTHER IMPORTER PRODUCT LINES AND OTHER FACTORS
AS DETERMINANT OF OVERALL DECLINE IN U.S. EXPORTS OF
COLOR TV'S TO TAIWAN, IN 1975 AND 1976. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: TAIPEI
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